

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 IO-04 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

CIEP-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-20

USIA-06 OMB-01 NIC-01 EB-04 DRC-01 /083 W

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P R 151431Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3409

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIETS CAUTIOUS ON OUTLOOK FOR FAHMY VISIT

1. SUMMARY. SOVIETS ARE TAKING CAUTIOUS LINE ON OUTLOOK FOR FAHMY TALKS. PRESS IS PLAYING EGYPTIANS' VISIT IN LOWEST OF KEYS WHILE REFRAINING FROM HINTING ABOUT OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS. WE SUSPECT SOVIET RETICENCE SUGGESTS SOVIETS ENVISION SOME TOUGH NEGOTIATING WITH FAHMY AND ARE UNCERTAIN HERE ABOUT WHAT OUTCOME OF TALKS WILL BE. END SUMMARY.

2. FAHMY ARRIVAL HAS OCCURRED WITHOUT PRIOR BUILDUP NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH IMPORTANT HIGH-LEVEL VISITS TO USSR. PRESS HAS CONFINED COVERAGE OF EGYPT TO SCATTERED, USUALLY BRIEF, ANODYNE REPORTS ABOUT EGYPTIAN ECONOMY, RECOVERY FROM WAR AND
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STATUS OF A FEW SOVIET-EGYPTIAN JOINT UNDERTAKINGS.

3. ON FAHMY VISIT, STANDARD ARRIVAL COVERAGE HAS EXPRESSED RESERVE AND CAUTION. IZVESTIYA (OCTOBER 14) PRINTED USUAL ARRIVAL-EVA BIO ON VISITING DIGNITARY, BUT CONCLUDED ITEM UNTYPICALLY WITH GRATUITOUS CAUTIONARY EDITORIAL COMMENT THAT "IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THE ARRIVAL ... WILL SERVE TO DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN FURTHER THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND EGYPT."

4. ROUTINE TASS ANNOUNCEMENT (PRAVDA, OCTOBER 15) CONFINED COVERAGE OF FAHMY'S ARRIVAL TO LISTING PRINCIPALS AMONG EGYPTIAN DELEGATION (INCLUDING CHIEF OF STAFF GAMASI) AND REPORTING COMPOSITION OF SOVIET GREETING COMMITTEE -- GROMYKO, FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV, FIRST DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF M.M. KOZLOV, M.D. SYTENKO, MEMBER OF THE MFA COLLEGIUM (AND DIRECTOR OF NEAR EAST COUNTRIES DIVISION), AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO POLYAKOV. (ACCORDING TASS LIST SOVIET LINE UP -- EXCEPT FOR KOZLOV -- WAS IDENTICAL TO GROUP WHICH MET FAHMY IN JANUARY, 1974).

5. COMMENT: SOVIET CAUTION AND RETICENCE IN PUBLIC TREATMENT OF THIS VISIT PROBABLY INDICATE PRESS AND MEDIA HAVE NO CLEAR GUIDANCE ABOUT LIKELY OUTCOME OF SOVIET-EGYPTIAN TALKS. THIS SUGGESTS MOSCOW AND CAIRO HAVE NOT REACHED PRIOR AGREEMENT ON AT LEAST SOME IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF THE TALKS, AND PROBABLY INDICATES SOVIETS LEADERS EXPECT SOME TOUGH BARGAINING WITH FAHMY DURING NEXT FEW DAYS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW15568
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740292-0843
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741047/aaaabnm.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIETS CAUTIOUS ON OUTLOOK FOR FAHMY VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR, (FAHMY, ISMAIL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005